

A Plan for Virginia

Presented to

The People of The Commonwealth

by

**The Defenders of State Sovereignty
and Individual Liberties**

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Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties

*A non-profit organization of Virginians dedicated
to the preservation of the Sovereignty of the States
and our historic freedoms.*

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A Plan For Virginia

The Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties has, since its organization last fall, been giving itself to a study of the questions posed for Virginia by the Supreme Court decision of May 17, 1954. It was not surprised by the implementing decision handed down on May 31, 1955. It did not anticipate that a court, composed of such judges as now constitute The Supreme Court of the United States, would in any respect weaken in its determination to force upon the people of Virginia and the South the unsupported views of the socialistic and radical sociologists whose opinions it has accepted as constitutional doctrine.

The Defenders are amazed that there be those in our midst who would lull our people into a false sense of security by assuring them that under these decisions we have all the time we want in which to chart our course. The court has not given that time. It requires that in "good faith" we "make a prompt and reasonable start" toward mixing the races in our schools. If we make that start and thus begin the process of mongrelization, there is then the possibility that we will be given additional time to complete the process, but only in the event we do so "at the earliest practicable date." If this were not clear enough to satisfy these false prophets that time, in the opinion of the court, is of the essence in this matter, the court emphasizes that fact by saying that schools must be mixed "with all deliberate speed."

There be those who after a year of talk still advocate that nothing now be done, but that we take our time in an endeavor to "hammer out" some plan of procedure unknown to them and to us. We call upon such persons, and particularly any such who have been honored by election to the General Assembly, to meet their responsibility and to state in frankness and candor to the people of Virginia what they have to offer.

Unless something be done, and unless something be done now, integration will begin in

Virginia, and once begun, it, like every other vile pestilence, will spread to the point where it has covered the whole body politic. Whether it come in our day, our children will see the death of our Anglo-Saxon civilization.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a right now to expect of every one of her sons and daughters who may have any proposal to make by which we can preserve our way of life, that he speak. Procrastination is not only the thief of time, in this instance, procrastination will be the thief of our civilization.

The Defenders have certain broad proposals to make to the people of Virginia. They do not make them on the spur of the moment. They make them after long study and after consultation with very many persons both within and without the State of Virginia.

1. We recommend to His Excellency the Governor that he immediately call a special session of the General Assembly. That session should begin the process of amending our state constitution and it should adopt certain needed legislation. That session should be held not later than the middle of July. If we are to amend our constitution through the plan that permits the people of Virginia to vote on the amendments (and this matter is too important to deal with otherwise), the initial step should be taken by the General Assembly not later than the first of August of this year. Otherwise, notice of the proposed amendments cannot be published in sufficient time to permit the General Assembly at its regular 1956 session to deal with the matter and to permit the people to vote next year. Unless this initial action is taken by the first of August, we cannot amend the constitution by the procedure which gives the people a right to pass on the proposals until 1958. That would mean a delay of three school sessions. This matter does not permit of such delay. If other considerations did not require immediate action, the situation in Prince Edward County demands it. The people of that county will next year educate their children without help from the state or the locality. They will in addition

pay their full state taxes. Tax money paid by them will go to help support the public schools in other localities. It is not right that a people who have so courageously fought the battle for the whole state should thus be penalized and oppressed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

2. We call upon the General Assembly to initiate procedures to amend Section 129 of the Constitution so as expressly to give to the General Assembly the power to adopt such laws in relation to schools as the welfare of this people requires. That section and the provision for segregated schools are each a part of Chapter IX of our Constitution. We are aware that there are those who are of the opinion that the invalidation of the segregated school provision by the Supreme Court of the United States has wiped out of our state constitution the whole of Chapter IX. Indeed, as we read the decision of the Circuit Court of Hanover County rendered last week in the Hanover School Board case, that is the view of the great constitutional student who sits on that Bench before which Patrick Henry was accustomed to appear. There are others who take a different position. This question is too important to leave to any uncertainty, and as matters now stand, certainty cannot, without such amendment, be attained until the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia has ruled on the question.

3. We call upon the General Assembly to initiate procedures to amend Sections 134 and 141 of Chapter IX of the Constitution so as to remove any doubt that, in case of necessity, state and local monies may be used to pay the tuition and other school expenses in private schools, of children of localities in which it becomes necessary, as in Prince Edward, to close the public schools. We do not believe there is a self-respecting man in the State of Virginia who would advocate that people so situated should be relegated to educate their children as best they can, and at the same time be compelled to pay taxes to assist in the education of children of other areas.

4. We call upon the General Assembly to

take out of our law all mention of compulsory education. We have yet to hear one single man advocate that compulsory education be retained in Virginia, and that any man be prosecuted and convicted who may elect to hold his child out of school rather than subject him to the degrading influences of an integrated school. If there be such a man in Virginia, particularly if there be such a man in public life, honesty and candor compel him so to state, and especially if there be one who is now candidate for the General Assembly, he will, if he be honest, so state to the people whose support he seeks.

5. We call upon the General Assembly to enact such laws as may be needed to prevent the expenditure of \$1.00 of public monies, state or local, in the support and maintenance of any racially mixed public school. The Supreme Court of the United States has the power perchance to prevent us spending our money as we see fit, but the Supreme Court of the United States can scarcely be so oblivious to the constitution which governs it as to attempt to compel a state to levy taxes and to spend tax money for a purpose for which that state is not willing to tax its people or to make any appropriation. The people of this Commonwealth are unalterably opposed to integration. That being our position, then as self-respecting men and women, our course is determined. It demands, in self-respect that we refuse to give any support to any integrated public school. Integration, like cancer, cannot be contained and limited to one isolated spot. If it exists, it spreads until it kills the whole.

6. We call upon the General Assembly to adopt such laws as may be required to make public monies available to meet the private school expenses of children of those localities in which the closing of public schools may be compelled. Again, we cite the present situation in Prince Edward County, a situation that may shortly exist in other localities. We point to the rank injustice of subjecting those people to the necessity of educating their children out of private funds, and at the same time compelling

them to pay taxes to help the more fortunate areas of the state meet their public school expenses.

7. We pledge to His Excellency the Governor, to the General Assembly and to the people of Virginia our support of this program, or, if someone can advance a better, which will also preserve education in Virginia and which will prevent the mixing of the races, we will give our support to it.

8. We call upon all those who are candidates for the General Assembly—Democrats, Republicans and Independents—to state openly, frankly and fearlessly what, if anything, they have to propose, and whether they can be relied upon to give their full support to a program that will prevent integration in Virginia public schools. There may be a time when a candidate is justified in indulging in political trimming in order to obtain a seat in the General Assembly. Upon that we express no opinion. But we do assert, that in this emergency, no honest person has the right to seek that high office without frankly telling those whom he hopes to represent what may be his position. To act otherwise will be the height of personal, political and moral cowardice.

9. Too long have many of those who represent us in the halls of Congress and in the General Assembly remained silent. Some have spoken out frankly and have told the people of Virginia that in which they believe. We call upon those who have been honored by the people of Virginia and its localities with public office, elective or appointive, from United States Senators down, now to give their advice to the people of Virginia in a forthright manner and to meet the responsibilities of the leadership to which they have been chosen by assisting to guide us along a road that will preserve our race.

We do not consider that these proposals mean death to public schools. We think that the only hope of public schools lies in their adoption. Those who talk of preserving our public school system know not of what they speak. Our pub-

lic school system—that system which we have known for many years in Virginia, which has been so beneficial to white persons and which rescued the negro out of illiteracy—cannot be preserved. The United States Supreme Court has killed it for years to come, and it will remain dead until such time as the American people may by constitutional processes correct the error of that Court, or the personnel of the Court may be changed to include those who recognize that the judicial power may not rightfully be used to amend the Constitution to make it conform to that which the Court may think it should be.

No system of public schools not approved of by the people can exist. Virginians want nothing of an integrated public school system. Our white citizens who have paid the greater part of the taxes which have educated both white and negro children will not submit to the enormous cost of maintaining schools to which they are not willing to subject their children.

Only one of two public school systems can now exist. Each is novel and new to Virginia. The one is an integrated public school system. That system the people of Virginia will not support. The other is a segregated public school system—segregated not as a matter of law and by state compulsion, but segregated by the good sense of our people, white and black.

If it be said that the N.A.A.C.P. will not consent to the maintenance of the latter, but will excite some ill-advised negroes to apply for admission to the white schools, and thereby cause the school to be closed, or that one of that pitiful little group of white persons who fraternize with the N.A.A.C.P. will sacrifice his child by seeking his admission to the negro school and thereby cause the school to lose, we admit that possibility. Virginians do not choose, however, to be ruled by such elements. If that happens those schools will close. They will regret that the negroes for whom they have done much will no longer receive their help, but that will be at the wish of their leaders. We will care for our own and they will care as best they can

for theirs, each assisted by the same help from public funds to the extent that help is sought and within the limits of available funds. We do not believe many schools will close before our negro citizens, fine as most of them are, will see to it that their people throw off the leadership of these radicals who have done so much to destroy good race relations, and together we can put our educational system on a firm and lasting basis. If our belief in that respect be not sustained we will put other schools for our children on a firm and lasting basis and let the negroes do with theirs as they will.

We are not unmindful of the ultimatum thrown down to the people of Virginia at a radio forum held in Richmond on May 17, 1955, by one of the chief Virginia counsel of the N.A.A.C.P., who in an unguided moment cried out: "Like it or not, your schools will be integrated." Virginians are not ready to accept that dictation.

We have heard of no specific proposal that would look to integration in Virginia. We hope we hear of none. Should one be forthcoming which would propose that a start be made on the road to integration without it having first received approval of all governing bodies of the locality affected, both state and local, and also approval by the people at the ballot box, we would know of no way to characterize it save by the use of such a word as "dastardly." We do not believe our people, or any segment of them, is ready to condemn their children to a complete socialization of the races. We do most solemnly assert that the man who would advocate that be permitted without first giving the people an opportunity in solemn vote to express their views is entitled to no respect and to no support from the people of Virginia.

We realize that there are those timid souls among us who will say that we advocate an "extreme" program. We have no fear of adjectives. We are confronted by an "extreme" emergency. We have been served with a decision so "extreme" that it has abandoned all rules of constitutional interpretation; it has

denied the validity of the views held for 175 years by the American people; it has accepted as our fundamental law not the constitution adopted by this people, but the views of foreign and radical sociologists which have nothing to support them other than the opinions of the authors—men who would mix the races in all features of life. To attempt to compromise between the segregated school and the integrated school, is not to compromise. It is to accept the integrated school. That we are not willing to do.

We call upon all the good people of the State of Virginia who would protect their children and their children's children from the deteriorating and deadly effects of integration to bestir themselves, to join with us, and to help in this our day to protect that pure way of life which our fathers preserved for us, and preserved it when they were in a situation no where nearly so strong as we, and when they were threatened with forces equally as destructive as those which now seek to encompass us.

June 8, 1955

If you believe in this plan and these principles, fill out the application and mail to the Executive Director. The dues of a member are \$10.00 per annum. One who is unable to pay that amount may become a subscribing member upon payment of any sum he elects.

If in your location there is a Chapter of the Defenders, your application will be forwarded to officers of that Chapter. If there be no Chapter in your location, try to become the nucleus around which a Chapter forms. We will be in touch with you.

Contributions beyond membership dues will be most welcome.

Application Form

Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties

_____ City/County Chapter

I hereby apply for membership in the DEFENDERS OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES. I am a white, law abiding citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the City/County of _____, Virginia. I am not a member of any organization detrimental to the peace and welfare of the U. S. A., nor do I ever intend belonging to any such organization.

I believe the segregation of the races is a right of the state government; in the sovereignty of the several states and in the freedom of the individual from government controls.

I enclose \$10.00 for membership in the DEFENDERS OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES for one year.

Witness my hand this _____ day of _____, 195_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

SPONSORED BY: _____

Signature of member

CUT ON THIS LINE